

CLAIMS

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1. A method of inventory management comprises:
verifying that the articles in a grouped order belong
to the grouped order, wherein verifying further comprises:
examining codes on tags associated with each
article in the group to determine that the article
belongs in the group.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein examining further
comprises:
scanning the tags using a machine readable code device.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the method conducted in a
dry cleaning establishment, and the tags have unique sequential
identification in a machine readable format and examining further
comprises:
scanning the unique sequential identifications.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further
comprises:
indicating to an operator if the scanned unique
sequential identification corresponds to an item that belongs in
the group.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further
comprises:
indicating to an operator if the scanned unique
sequential identification does not correspond to an item that
belongs in the group.

1 6. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further
2 comprises:
3 indicating to an operator if the scanned unique
4 sequential identification corresponds to an item that was already
5 scanned and that belongs in the group.

1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further
2 comprises:
3 determining if the scanned unique sequential
4 identification corresponds to a first item that belongs in the
5 group.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein if the first item has
2 been determined, the method further comprises:
3 determining the total number of articles in the group
4 from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein determining further
2 comprises:
3 subtracting a base number from a portion of the unique
4 sequential identification to provide the number of items in the
5 group.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the unique sequential
2 identification includes a group identification portion and a
3 sequential number concatenated to the group identification
4 portion.

1 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 grouping articles together into the grouped order that
3 correspond to a transaction.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein examining further
2 comprises:
3 accessing a database to retrieve the number of articles
4 in the group; and
5 matching numbers scanned from permanent labels on the
6 articles to either a group number or a permanent number
7 associated with the permanent tags.

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1 13. A computer program product residing on a computer
2 readable media for use in a dry cleaning establishment comprises
3 instructions for causing a computer to:
4 verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the
5 grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise
6 instructions to:
7 examine codes on tags associated with each article
8 in the group to determine that the article belongs in
9 the group.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 scan the tags using a machine readable code device.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the
2 tags have unique sequential identification in a machine readable
3 format and instructions to examine further comprise instructions
4 to:
5 scan the unique sequential identifications.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 indicate to an operator if the scanned unique
4 sequential identification corresponds to an item that belongs in

5 the group.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 indicate to an operator if the scanned unique
4 sequential identification does not correspond to an item that
5 belongs in the group.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 indicate to an operator if the scanned unique
4 sequential identification corresponds to an item that was already
5 scanned and that belongs in the group.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 determine if the scanned unique sequential
4 identification corresponds to a first item that belongs in the
5 group.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein if the
2 first item has been determined, the computer program product
3 further comprises instructions to:
4 determine the total number of articles in the group
5 from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein
2 instructions to determine further comprise instructions to:
3 subtract a base number from a portion of the unique
4 sequential identification to provide the number of items in the
5 group.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the
2 unique sequential identification includes a group identification
3 portion and a sequential number concatenated to the group
4 identification portion.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 1 wherein
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:
3 access a database to retrieve the number of articles in
4 the group; and
5 match numbers scanned from permanent labels on the
6 articles to either a group number or a permanent number
7 associated with the permanent tags.

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1 24. An apparatus for verifying inventory grouping
2 comprises:
3 a scanner to scan codes on labels;
4 a computer having a computer readable storage media
5 storing a computer program product comprises instructions for
6 causing the computer to:
7 verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the
8 grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise
9 instructions to:
10 examine codes on tags associated with each article
11 in the group to determine that the article belongs in
12 the group.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the computer program
2 product residing on a computer readable media is adapted for use
3 in a dry cleaning establishment.

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26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:
a printer to print tags having unique sequential
identifications for affixing to the articles.

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